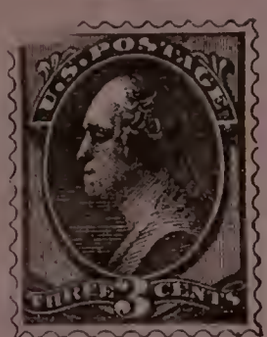
MASON'S

MONTHLY

COIN AND STAMP

COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5. AUGUST, 1871. No. 8.

PUBLISHED AT $1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.

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THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

(Continued.)

Pearl fisheries exist in various portions of the globe, though at present the most productive are those off the island of Ceylon, on the coast of Coromandel and in the Persian Gulf. The Romans, it is said, found Pearls in Britain, two thousand years ago, and in modern times the Scottish rivers have supplied considerable quantities, though not of the finest quality. Several German rivers and two or three Russian provinces also furnish them, as do likewise the Bay of Panama and the coast of Colombia, in this western hemisphere, though the last-named are pronounced inferior to those of the Orient.

Ceylon, however, would seem to be the principal present fishery for this species of gem. The scene presented at the time, which embraces the months of April and May, is described as being very striking. One hundred and fifty thousand people are assembled here from all quarters of the East, and are lodged in huts on the seashore, composed of a few poles stuck in the ground, interwoven with bamboo and covered with leaves of the cocoa-nut palm. Of course, this number of men occupy a large fleet of boats, each of which carries a captain, a pilot, and twenty men, of which last ten are experienced divers. Five of these descend at once, each carrying a net or basket to contain the mussels, together with a strong knife for detaching them, as also for defence against the sharks. These divers remain under water from fifty seconds up to two minutes. They are able to make forty or fifty plunges in a day, and to bring up, on each occasion, about one hundred oysters.

Each boat owner has a shallow pit fenced round, in which his oysters are stored and allowed to putrify under a burning sun. When thoroughly dried they are drenched in sea water, after which they are easily opened and render their pearly contents. The Pearl is not attached to the shell but is loose within it. The finest Pearls are perfectly globular, white, radiant, and seemingly translucent without being actually so.

In order to clean, round and polish the Pearls to the state in which we see them, a powder is employed, which is made of the Pearls themselves.

Mother of Pearl is the interior, silvery layer of various shells, especially those of oysters abounding in the East Indian seas, and is so valuable as to be employed for various purposes of manufacture. The beautiful tints of this substance are owing to its surface being covered with minute grooves, which decompose the reflected light of the sun. Sir David Brewster is said to have first discovered this structure of the shell. These grooves are often so small that, as seen by the microscope, three thousand of them are comprised within a single inch.

The art of making artificial Pearls has, by the Parisian manufactures, been brought to such perfection that even professional dealers cannot, in all cases, distinguish between the real and the imitative. This art originated with a French bead maker, named Jasmin, who noticed that a certain small fish, when washed, deposited fine, silver colored particles in the water. These particles he found to possess much of the lustre of Pearls, and, having made small beads of gypsum, and covered them with this substance, he found them greatly admired and sought after. With certain alterations, suggested by the ladies themselves, he raised this manufacture into a lucrative business. Four thousand of these fishes are required to supply one ounce of these Pearl manufacturing scales, and it was discovered, eventually, that they might be preserved from putrefaction by immersion in a solution of ammonia.

(*To be continued.*)

AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.

(*Continued.*)

But the activity of Mr. Peale was by no means limited to his professional duties, or to art and recreation. He was zealous in good works. In particular, the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind long engaged his sympathy and unwearied labor. He was elected a Manager in 1839, served on its most important committees, and was finally elected President in 1863, holding that office at his decease. He was rarely absent from the managers' meetings, and presided only a few weeks before his death. His tender, affectionate manner made him greatly loved by his pupils, while his intelligence and the soundness of his judgment secured the esteem and confidence of the officers and of his fellow managers.

For some years before his death, Mr. Peale was greatly interested in that branch of archæology which relates to the so-called Stone Age. He determined to make a collection of implements illustrating that age, and by energy and patience succeeded in accumulating over twelve hundred specimens, many of them very choice. The most of of these were gathered by himself at the ancient homes of the Shaw-

nees and Delawares, around the Water Gap, where he spent many autumns; others were secured by exchange or purchase. These have all been arranged for easy examination on a plan devised by himself, and full of his characteristic ingenuity and taste, and he has left behind a manuscript catalogue with an introduction and full descriptive details which leaves nothing further to be desired. It affords me great satisfaction to add that this valuable collection, the latest labor of Mr. Peale, is to be presented to this Society.

I have left to the close what perhaps should have been earliest mentioned, all reference to Mr. Peale's association with our own Society. He was elected a member October 18, 1833, and ever after took a constant and active interest in our proceedings. He was for many years one of the Curators, and filled that office at his death. Our published minutes show many communications from him, on a variety of subjects, but of late these were mostly relative to the stone age, on which he was always heard with interest inspired by his enthusiasm and fullness of knowledge.

Mr. Peale was twice married. By his first marriage, which took place in his minority, he had a daughter, his only child, who still survives. His second wife was a niece of Stephen Girard. She lives to lament the death of her husband, and I may not, therefore, refer more particularly to those accomplishments and virtues by which she crowned his happiness and made delightful his home.

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

66. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose with bud, 3 leaves, 2 heads and 1 blade wheat to right; 1 thistle, 2 leaves, 2 shamrocks, 1 blade and 1 head wheat to left. No bow, strings to right and left. Same inscription as No. 64. Rev.—Wreath of laurel (32 leaves), with sprigs between. Very large open bow with ribbon over front of wreath. One end of ribbon on letter "T," the other between "R" and "E" in Montreal. Dot over "o." Edge plain.

67. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 6 leaves, 2 heads and 3 blades wheat to right; very large thistle, 1 leaf, 3 shamrocks, 2 broadblades wheat to left. Ribbon same as No. 66. Inscription punctuated same as No. 64, but words very close to each other. Rev.—Same as No. 66. Edge plain.

68. Brass. Same as No. 66.

69. C. Obv.—Bouquet (very open). 1 rose, 8 leaves, two of which (near the top of bouquet) turn over towards left, 1 shamrock and 1 head wheat to right; large thistle, 2 leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 head and 2 blades wheat to left; on top, sprig of shamrock with 3 leaves. Very long ribbons to right and left. Top of bouquet quite close to inscription, which is the same as on No. 64. Rev.—Wreath as on No. 66, but with 40 leaves, 22 to right and 18 to left; same

bow as No. 66, but end of ribbon to left turns upwards immediately over letter "T." No dot over "O" in Sou. The words "UN SOU" are inclined towards right side of the wreath. Edge plain.

70. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose and bud, with 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks, 1 head of wheat, inclined over rose to right; 2 thistles, 3 leaves (one forming centre), 2 shamrocks, 1 rose leaf, 2 blades and 1 head wheat to left; on top 3 blades wheat. Very slender, open bow to right, 2 ribbons to left. Same inscription as No. 59. Rev.—Wreath of 17 leaves, 9 to right, 8 to left; slender triangular bow and small ribbon. Stem of left side of wreath passes between "R" and "E" in Montreal; top of wreath very open. Edge plain.

71. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 2 thistles, 3 leaves (2 large and 1 small), one of the large ones forming centre of bouquet; 3 blades and 1 head wheat to right; 1 rose, 5 leaves (one turning over centre thistle leaf), 3 leaved sprig of shamrock, 5 blades and 1 head wheat to left. Small, but thick bow to left, short ribbons hanging down to right. Head of wheat to right nearly touches first "M" in Commerce. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE BAS CANADA." Rev.—Heavy wreath of 24 maple leaves, connected by a double bow; ribbons entwined round ends of wreath, top leaves of which touch each other. In centre of wreath in very bold letters "UN SOU." Inscription, "BANQUE DU PEUPLE . MONTREAL." Very thick coin and milled edge.

(To be continued.)

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S AUTOGRAPH.

In June, 1834, Mr. John G. Moxey, now of Philadelphia, being in the Study at Abbotsford, was presented with three lines cut from the manuscript of the "Crusaders" in his presence. These lines, mounted in the centre of an affidavit, were neatly photographed, and copies, on cards, presented by Mr. Moxey to the great Sanitary Fair, in 1864. The words on this fragment are: "Remnant of what had been the empire of the Visigoths in that province. It was commanded by a prince named Euilo, who had hitherto been opposed to Charles Martel and his family, but now implored his assistance against cun—."

Knowing Sir Walter's writing as well as we know our own, we have no doubt that this particle of an autograph is authentic. Mr. Moxey received it when Scott had been nearly two years dead; and therefore not, as we have seen it stated, from Sir Walter himself. The photograph, neatly mounted, is on sale, price one dollar, at the jewelry store of Robbins, Clark & Biddle, 1124 Chestnut street, who also have the original on view. *That*, it seems, is purchasable for three hundred dollars; if this price had been set down as three dollars it would have been the *full* value of the article.

Autograph collectors recognize four grades, viz.: 1. The autograph letter signed and dated. 2. The autograph written in the third person. 3. A mere signature. 4. Writing without any signature. Mr.

Moxey's scrap belongs to the last and least valued class. We take his word that he received the morsel of handwriting at Abbotsford. But what satisfies *us* is not proof for the world. From whom did Mr. Moxey get the bit of writing? What authority had that person to mutilate one of the Waverly manuscripts?

As for the value of three lines of Scott's "copy," unsigned, unauthenticated (for its coming from Abbotsford proves nothing), we say that three dollars would be the utmost. We possess at least a dozen letters, all in Sir Walter's own writing, some of them with seal and postmark (the strongest corroborations of authenticity), and some of which as yet have never been published, and if Mr. Moxey's three lines are worth three hundred dollars, our Scott's autographs are worth ten thousand dollars. If Mr. Moxey desires to possess a genuine letter of Scott's, written in May, 1814, when "Waverley" was in press, he can do so. The writing covers two large quarto pages, containing thirty-seven lines, with the signature in full, "Walter Scott," and the date postmarks are very legible. According to Mr. Moxey's estimate of one hundred dollars per line, irrespective of signature, this letter is worth thirty-seven hundred dollars—worth double that, indeed, for it is as fully authenticated as any autograph in existence. Mr. Moxey can have it for two thousand dollars—nay, for one-tenth of that moderate amount, if he pleases. At this rate of one hundred dollars per line, there is a fortune for him in the transaction.

We know very well that this article will be largely copied, and predict that when autograph dealers and autograph collectors read it they will smile over the three hundred dollar demand for three lines (which, though probably in Scott's writing, are unsigned and unauthenticated), as the very best autographic joke of the season—aye, or of any season.—*Press, June* 29, 1871.

THE RED CENT'S HISTORY.

As the old red cent has now passed out of use and, except rarely, out of sight, like the "old oaken bucket," its history is a matter of sufficient interest for preservation. The cent was first proposed by Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution, and was named by Jefferson, two years after. It began to make its appearance from the mint in 1792. It bore the head of Washington on one side and thirteen links on the other. The French Revolution soon created a rage for French ideas in America, which put on the cent, instead of the head of Washington, the head of the Goddess of Liberty—a French Liberty, with flowing locks. The chain on the reverse was replaced by the olive wreath of peace. But the French Liberty was short-lived, and so was her portrait on our cent. The next head or figure succeeding this—the staid, classic dame, with a fillet around her hair—came into fashion about thirty or forty years ago, and her finely-chiseled Grecian features have been but slightly altered in the lapse of time.—*Philadelphia Sunday Transcript, June* 11.

Mason & Co. write us as follows, in reply to the article in our last

issue, "The Red Cent's History;" In your last Sunday's issue, we find an article entitled "The Red Cent's History;" and as said article contains several errors, we would be pleased to see them corrected in the same journal they appeared. The first United States cent was issued by order of Congress, in 1787, and is termed by numismatists the "Fugio," or "Franklin Cent." Congress passed an act, October 16, 1786, for the establishment of a mint, and a contract having been made for coining coppers, the Franklin cent (said to have been designed by Benjamin Franklin) was issued in large quantities. On the obverse of the coin is a sun dial, above which the sun appears; under the former is the legend, "Mind Your Business." Upon the left side, the word "Fugio;" on the right side, the date, "1787." On the reverse, a circle of thirteen links or rings, forming an interlinked chain, representing the thirteen original States; within the circle of rings, on a small circular band, is the legend "United States," and in the centre of the latter, in three lines, the motto, "We are one." Robert Morris and Thomas Jefferson may have aided, by their wise and practical suggestions, the early coinage of the United States, but neither of these statesmen suggested a cent of 1792, with head of Washington upon one side and thirteen links upon the reverse, as stated in your article. No coins of this description were ever issued. The 1792 cents, of which there are several varieties, bear the heads of George and Martha Washington on obverses, while the reverses of some have the spread eagle, and others the usual legend, "United States of America," etc., within a laurel wreath. The first regular coinage of copper cents by the mint, in this city, was in 1793, obverse a head of Liberty, with flowing locks, and on reverse thirteen links interlocked in a circle, representing the thirteen original States. There were three types of the 1793 cent issued—Link, Wreath and Liberty Cap, and at least a baker's dozen of varieties of these special types. The Fillet Head (hair tied behind in a cue) made its appearance on the cents in 1796, and disappeared in 1808, a period of sixty-three years, instead of thirty or forty, as given in your article, since the fillet head appeared on the copper cent. By correcting some of the many errors, floating unchecked for years through the public press, future historians may be able to know something of our early efforts at coining money.—*Transcript, June* 18.

DEVICE OF THE GERMAN EAGLE.

The *German Correspondent* (official paper of the government) says the form of the Imperial German Eagle, as it is henceforth to figure in the arms of the Empire, and on stamps and official seals, has been determined by the Federal Council. It is to be the heraldic eagle with the head turned to the right, above which the Imperial crown will appear to hover. The shield on the eagle's breast will display the heraldic Prussian eagle, each wing containing six broad and five narrow feathers; the claws will be without the insignia they usually seem to grasp, and the tail in heraldic delineation.

THE LIVERPOOL (ENGLAND) NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Liverpool Numismatic Society was held on Tuesday, July 4, 1871, in the small lecture room of the Free Library, William Brown street, the President, Mr. H. Chapman, in the chair. A donation of coins from the Honorary Secretary, and sundry numismatic works from Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith, were acknowledged. The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, of Boston, U. S., presented the Society with his valuable work on "The Vermont Coinage," 1870. The following were exhibited—By the President: crown, Gothic crown, half-crown, graceless florin, florin, shilling, sixpence, great and maundy, fourpence, threepence, twopence, and a penny in silver of Victoria; penny, half-penny, farthing, half-farthing, and third of a farthing in bronze, all of Victoria. By Mr. Charles Lionel Reis: A silver medal of Charles II, William III of Holland, and of George, Prince Regent, commemorating the peace signed between England and France, May, 1814; two bronze medals of Napoleon Bonaparte, of Daniel Wray, and of the Spanish Regent. By Mr. E. Bowker: A fine medallion of George Washington, and one quarter farthing of Queen Victoria, 1839. By Mr. David T. Stewart: First brass of Antoninus Pius; obverse, "ANTONINVS PIVS P. P. T. R. P. COS. III.;" head of Antoninus to right; laureate; reverse, "DIVA FAUSTINA;" head of Faustina to right; also, a denarius of the Emperor Trajan, A. D. 53-117. Obverse, "IMP-TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. PM. TRP. COS. VII.;" head of Trajan to right; laureate; reverse, S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI; a figure with cornucopia, &c., standing; and further, a denarius of the Empress Faustina Senior (A. D. 159), struck after her death. Obverse, "DIVA FAUSTINA"; head of Faustina to right. Reverse, AVGVSTA; a female figure standing. The Secretary, Mr. Charles Lionel Reis, read a very interesting paper on the Anglo-American coins, treating briefly upon the Rosa Americana and the other most interesting coins of our transatlantic colonies, not forgetting to remind the Society of its being the anniversary of the American Independence, which induced him to enter upon such a theme. Mr. H. F. Brown was also fortunate in his subject. He exhibited a very rare medal of Henry IX, 1788. He was the grandson of James II, and a brother to the young Pretender, whose romantic endeavors to recover the throne of his ancestors are interesting matters of history. When the last grand effort for the restoration of his family failed, he took holy orders, in 1747, and Pope Benedict XIV raised him to the purple. Soon after the dethronement and expulsion of Pius VI, by Bonaparte, in 1798, the Cardinal fled from Rome to Venice—seventy-five years old, infirm in health, and poor. He lived for a time on the produce of some silver plate which he had rescued from the ruins of his prosperity. His situation at length became so deplorable that George III gave orders that a present of £2000 should be sent him with an intimation that an annuity of £4000 should be at his service as long as he should need it. This liberality was accepted by the Cardinal in terms of gratitude, and he continued to receive it till his death, at the age of eighty-two, in 1805. With him the direct

line of the Stuart family terminated. The valuable library known as the Stuart Papers were left by the Cardinal to the King. A very pleasant meeting was closed by a vote of thanks to all contributors.

THE SIGNERS IN RHYME.

BY REV. J. H. DUBBS.

It will not be denied that the men who, on the Fourth of July, 1776, pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" in behalf of our national liberty, deserve the most profound reverence from every American citizen. The writer, having frequently experienced the advantage of verse as an aid to the memory, has attempted the task of metrically arranging the names of the Signers, according to the colonies from which they were delegated, in the hope that his rhymes will assist the youthful learner in remembering the names of these Fathers of American Independence.

The MASSACHUSETTS delegation,
That signed our glorious Declaration,
Were Hancock, Gerry, Robert Paine,
The great John Adams, and again
Another Adams, Samuel by name.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, called the "Granite State,"
Sent Whipple, Bartlett, Thornton, great
Alike in counsel and debate.

RHODE ISLAND'S delegates, we see,
Were Stephen Hopkins and Ellery.

CONNECTICUT, excelled by none,
Sent Roger Sherman, her noblest son,
With Wolcott, Williams and Huntington.

NEW YORK as delegates employed
Lewis Morris and William Floyd,
With Francis Lewis, and Livingston
Who died before the war was done.

NEW JERSEY to the Congress sent
Her honored College President,
John Witherspoon ; with Stockton, Clark,
Hart, Hopkinson—all men of mark.

Though PENNSYLVANIA need not blush
For Morris, Morton, Wilson, Rush,
And though most men might seem as dross
To Clymer, Taylor, Smith, and Ross ;
To Franklin each his tribute brings,
Who neither lightnings feared, nor kings.

The men from DELAWARE—indeed,
As true as steel. in utmost need—
Were Rodney, with McKean, and Read.

"My MARYLAND" is proud to own
Her Carroll, Paca, Chase and Stone.

On old VIRGINIA'S roll, we see
The gifted Richard Henry Lee;
And, just as earnest to be free,
His brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee;
And Wythe and Nelson, patriots true,
With Harrison and Braxton, too;
But, of them all, there was not one
As great as Thomas Jefferson.

NORTH CAROLINA'S chosen men,
We know, were Hooper, Hewes, and Penn;

And SOUTH CAROLINA'S vote was won
By Rutledge, Heyward, Middleton,
And Lynch, whose race was soonest run.

From GEORGIA came Gwinnett, and Hall,
And Walton, too, the last of all—
Who signed our precious Declaration—
The pride and glory of the Nation.

From Lippincott's Monthly Magazine.

AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF FRANKLIN.

The following letter, we feel sure, was never before published. In 1865, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution received it from some one in England, who asked in return for it a ten dollar greenback bearing the portrait of Mr. Lincoln. Professor Henry at once sent the Treasury note, and gave the letter to Rear Admiral Harwood, a descendant of Franklin. Hartley and Franklin were warm personal friends:

PASSY, SEPT. 8, 1783.

MY DEAR FRIEND—I wrote to you, this morning, enclosing three letters for friends in England. If you have not yet started, I know that you will be gratified to hear that His Majesty's ultimate instructions, of which I have been in possession some days—but until just now as a secret—are most favorable for peace. The fourth article reads: "In case you find the American commissioners are not at liberty to treat on any terms short of independence, you are to declare to them you have authority to make that concession." To so sincere a lover of mankind this to you will be indeed gratifying news.

With esteem and affection, I am, my dear friend, ever yours,

B. FRANKLIN.

DAVID HARTLEY, ESQ., M. P.

We regret to destroy so pleasant a memento as the above; but, in justice to the truths of history, we pronounce the above letter a forgery, one of the numerous offspring of Robert Spring, alias Emma Hardinge, alias Dr. Hawley. Any person familiar with Benjamin Franklin's style of correspondence will observe the difference in the composition of letters of the style of 1783 and the more modern style of 1865. We are particularly grieved to think that Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, should be so careless with his ten dollar greenbacks. The "Lincoln portrait" was the sugar coat for the forger's pill and was greedily swallowed.

WASHINGTON'S INITIATION.

The following concerning the initiation of the Father of his Country in Masonry is from the records of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, F. and A. M., of Fredericksburg, Va., and will no doubt be interesting to our readers.

"5752. November 6. Received from Mr. George Washington, for his entrance, £2 3d."

"5752. 3d March, George Washington passed Fellow Craft.

Eleven visiting brothers from other Lodges were in attendance.

"5753. 4th August, which day the Lodge being assembled—present: R. W. Daniel Campbell; J. Neilson, S. W.; Ro. Halkerson, J. W.; George Washington, James Stracan, Alexander Woodson, Sec. *pro tem.;* Thomas Robertson, Wm. McWilliams, Treasurer. Transactions of the evening are:

George Washington, raised Master Mason; Thomas James, entered an Apprentice."

The Bible of this old and venerable Lodge, on which George Washington was covenanted, was, during the invasion of the State during the late war, nearly destroyed. The hall was visited by men in the garb of soldiers, the properties of the Lodges scattered, and the Bible torn nearly to pieces. Scrap by scrap the same was recovered, taken to Richmond and there received the careful attention of a Masonic bookbinder, who restored it somewhat to its original shape; and thus has a Masonic relic, valuable to the American people, whether Masons or otherwise, been placed in an exhibitable shape to such as make a visit to Fredericksburg Lodge, their Masonic Mecca.

REVIEWS.

The *American Journal of Numismatics*, for July, received. This number of the quarterly presents an attractive appearance, and contains a variety of selected articles of interest. Our worthy cotemporary has unwittingly committed an orthographical error in the description of the Kittanning medal, terming it the *Kittining* medal. W. S. Appleton contributes an interesting article to the present number, entitled "Medals of Lafayette," giving twenty-eight varieties of the same.

We quote the following from the *Boston Journal of Numismatics*, which originally appeared in the *Boston Daily Journal*, of September 23, 1864:

MEMORIAL COINS.

It will be recollected that at the time of the burning of the Winthrop House and Masonic Hall. the Freemasons lost many of their gold and silver jewels. In looking over the ruins a considerable amount of silver was found, the jewels having been melted and run together. The silver was sent to the United States Mint and a number of half dollar pieces coined from it, which have been sold to the members of the different Lodges, Encampments, etc., for one dollar each. These, we are informed, are the only fifty cent pieces coined this year.—*Boston Journal of September* 23, 1864.

The above is an astonishing piece of intelligence, and, if true, the

Masonic hall, at Boston, must have contained tons of silver jewels, as there were coined at the United States mint, in 1864, 319,970 silver half dollars, and at the San Francisco mint, 648,000 making, a total of 967,970 half dollars coined in the year 1864.

Brown's Curiosity Cabinet for July received. The only matter it contains of interest (to Brown) is the extraordinary purchase of sixteen thousand foreign coins, of Mr. King, of London, for seven hundred dollars. If Brown succeeds in getting his money out of that half bushel of rubbish we should be pleased to note the fact. We notice the brass card (English) "New Yorke in America," advertised for sale at twenty-five dollars. How's that for elevation?

FOREIGN CURIOSITIES.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—During 1861 there were 427,247 persons who visited the British Museum, to view the general collections. The museum was open, from six to eight o'clock, on Monday and Saturday evenings, during the summer months, and 2228 visitors were admitted on those evenings. The visitors to the reading rooms numbered 98,971, averaging 338 daily, and each reader, upon an average, consulted thirteen volumes daily. Among the curiosities added to the museum are the eggs of an extinct bird of Madagascar, discovered in the fluviatile deposits of that island. The larger of these eggs has a circumference of 36 inches in the long and 30 inches in the short axis. In the map department there have been received from Florence, photograph copies of the oldest series of maps in existence, bearing date 1351, throwing great light on the history of mediæval discoveries in geography.

LONDON *Once a Week* says that "Under the auspices of the late librarian, the reading room of the British Museum was made, in its new shape, one of the finest places for students in the world. Before the present magnificent building was erected, a certain old lady—who still frequents the new room—had the privilege of supplying coffee to such of the readers as might require it. Just about the time when the present edifice was out of the hands of the builders our hitherto privileged dame was invited to see the grand architectural novelty. 'Yes, yes,' she said, 'it is very fine, very fine, indeed. But where is the place for my fire and coffee pot?' She could not see the improvement."

A PARIS HATTER, whose stock was riddled with bullets during the siege, now sells the damaged hats at fabulous prices as souvenirs of the war.

REDEMPTION OF BASE METAL COINS.

The amount of base metal coins redeemed to date is about two-hundred thousand dollars. The redemption is going on steadily at the rate of three thousand dollars daily, and, notwithstanding the prediction of the director of the Philadelphia Mint, the people prefer fractional currency to the accumulation of nickel coin.

EXCAVATION OF ROMAN COINS, ETC.

Several of our readers may be unaware that, by order of Pius IX, last year, important excavations were made in various districts of the Roman territory, and especially at Ostia. The laborers employed in the work were galley slaves, under the supervision of Commandant Visconti and the *superveillance* of the galley guards. Now, it will not be uninteresting to enumerate some of the compensations allowed by the directors of the pontifical museums to those criminals condemned to compulsory labor. They had, in the first place, a daily compensation of five baiocchi; besides that, whoever found a bronze coin received a reward of one cent; five cents were given for each silver coin and fifteen cents for each gold coin. The galley slave who was so extremely lucky as to dig up a cameo or an engraven cornelian received five paoli (about half a dollar). He who found a statue, if he succeeded in exhuming it without injuring it, was rewarded with a scudo (one dollar). A monsignor affirmed, some years ago, in Rome, that there has never been an instance of a galley slave appropriating any of the relics which were the objects of their researches. More than that, not a few, at the expiration of their term of punishment, have craved permission to remain on the works on the same footing as the rest—galley slaves from choice! Who would ever have believed it?

RARE COINS.

We recently had the pleasure of examining a collection of old and rare coins, made up by William P. Coolbaugh, which has been pronounced by those versed in numismatics to be one of the most complete in the State. It embraces a large number of uncirculated pieces, including the Massachusetts cents and half cents, the Kentucky cent and the Wood penny, the Granby or Higley copper, the Pine Tree shilling, sixpence and threepence, several other rare and valuable colonial pieces, a number of proof American pieces, besides a number of very fine American cents previous to 1820. Many of these, from their scarcity, command high prices, some of the cents selling for twenty dollars. One of the most valuable coins in the collection is an American silver quarter of 1823, which is very difficult to obtain. Altogether the collection is well worth examining.—*Grand Rapids Paper.*

FORTHCOMING COIN SALE.

A sale of valuable American and foreign silver and copper coins will take place, September 5 and 6, at the Book Trade Sales Rooms of George A. Leavitt & Co., Astor Place, New York.

BACK NUMBERS WANTED.

Twenty-five cents each will be paid for the following numbers of this magazine: April, 1867; October and December, 1868; January, May and June, 1869; January and February, 1870; January, 1871.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

VICTORIA.—Another stamp may now be added to the list—already too long—of so-called "provisional" stamps, which often linger long enough to acquire the right to be considered as fixtures. This latest arrival is the current ten penny of Victoria, transformed into a nine pence. The change is effected by surcharging the necessary word across the lower margin of the stamp, and by obliterating, with the figure 9, the numeral which has hitherto done duty on each side of the oval as an indication of the value. The added inscription and figures are in deep blue ink; the color of the stamp itself is unchanged. Our copy bears the old water-mark—the figures 10.

HUNGARY.—The post card turns out to have been but the forerunner of a series of adhesives and envelopes for the kingdom. The type is the same as post card. The values and colors, for both envelopes and adhesives, we understand, are to be the same as those of the Austrian series, and the stamps will be issued, value after value, as the existing stock is used up. The only one at present in use is the 5 kr., reddish rose, which has been seen obliterated. It is not a very brilliant nor artistic design, but perhaps the entire series may have a good effect. In addition to these adhesives there is also a newspaper stamp of a different design—a stamp like the current Austrian Mercury, without inscription or indication of value. The design consists of the Hungarian crown (we *believe*, but, borrowing a phrase from the Tichborne case, "it would not surprise us" to learn it is some other crown), and below it is a post horn; the whole is in an uncolored circle. The rectangle is completed by a slightly ornamented marginal frame, and lined spandrels. It is printed in red, and the execution is very poor.

FRANCE.—The half sheet of one hundred and fifty of the 20 c., head of Liberty, perforated, contains no fewer than three reversed stamps. The following are their positions:

Tenth row down, second stamp from left.
Eleventh row down, right hand stamp.
Last row down, third stamp from right.

These errors no doubt occurred in making up the plate for the new emission. The unperforated stamps are now getting scarcer, the 10 and 20 c. being the only ones which are at all freely used. In many places the laureated one centime of the empire has been brought back into currency. M. Moens notices a 40 c. imperforate very pale yellow. He has also been informed, by one of his correspondents, that proofs exist in Paris of the head of Liberty (engraved) stamps, on which the inscription COMMUNE DE PARIS has taken the place of the old REPUB. FRANC. It is not at all unlikely that the commune intended issuing stamps, seeing that at one period of the siege its

officers entered the tobacco shops, and pounced on all the stamps they could find, the stock at the post offices being even then so short.

RUSSIA.—*Novgorod.*—We have a new stamp for the district of Novgorod. It represents the value of 5 kopecs, and is printed black on rose.

LIVONIA.—The once doubted stamp, bearing a griffin in oval, has at length given place to the stamp which may be described as the same design, *without* the griffin in oval, in this particular greatly resembling the first rectangular stamp issued. Like its predecessor, it has the centre green and the frame red or carmine.

PORTUGAL.—Of the new issue there are now in existence the

5 reis, black. 50 reis, green.
10 reis, yellow. 100 reis, pale lilac.
20 reis, bistre.

AZORES.—The new series for the mother country is at present represented in these islands by four values—

5 reis, black, surcharge red. 25 reis, rose, surcharge black.
10 reis, yellow, surcharge black. 50 reis, green, surcharge black.

JAMAICA.—Specimens of the three pence, pale green, and six pence, mauve, have appeared, according to our Belgian contemporary, with CC and crown watermark, instead of the old familiar pineapple.

TASMANIA.—Two more values of the new type have been issued—

Three pence, reddish brown. Five shillings, bright violet.

These are watermarked with the letters TAS running diagonally from left to right.

SWITZERLAND.—Newspaper wrappers bearing impressed stamps have just been issued for the Helvetic Republic; only two values are as yet in circulation, viz.:

2 centimes, rose. 5 centimes, rose.

But others will be issued if the public are found to appreciate the system. The paper makers and stationers have no cause of complaint, inasmuch as these bands are issued at prices above their facial value, according to their size, to cover the cost of paper. The design is formed of the figure of value, with a cross above, and CENTIMES on a label below, surrounded by a wreath.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The handsome one cent adhesive has been superceded by another stamp formed from it and almost identical in design, colored a kind of brownish violet. The portrait is *probably* the same, but the background has certainly been remade, and the pointed oval frame has also been recut. The inscriptions and notably the letters N. F. are smaller, and there are differences in the disposition of the foliage easily observable on comparison.

SPAIN.—The new series of stamps may be expected to see the light very shortly, and, according to our Spanish contemporary, *El Averiguador*, the first values to appear will be the 6, 10, 12, 25, 40 and 50 centimos de pesta. The colors are not yet known, but it is certain the stamps will bear the king's portrait, the face turned slightly towards the left. The 1, 4 and 10 pesta will be from a diffnrent die

from the others, and the 1, 2 and 5 centimos de pesta alone will bear a numeral; of these latter, only the lowest value will appear on July 1, and even that may be delayed.

The *Averiguador*, criticising the description given of the forthcoming issue in *Le Trimbre-Poste* (and quoted by us), says there is no doubt that the editor of the Belgian paper has seen proofs of a rejected design, and has been deceived by his correspondent into believing them to be of the adopted type. The Spanish paper, however, believes that M. Moens, whilst acknowledging, will not regret his error, on learning that the accepted design is even finer than the one of which he has spoken so highly.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

UNITED STATES CIGAR STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

USED IN 1864.

Size 15½ inches long by 1¾ inches wide.

Coarse lathe work, with inscription in rect, space in centre. All alike except in color, and inscribed "United States Internal Revenue Cigar Stamp."

$3 per thousand, black.
$3 per thousand, green.
$8 per thousand, black.
$15 per thousand, black.
$25 per thousand, yellow.
$40 per thousand, blue.

Size 15¼ inches long by 1 inch wide.

Lithographed, with plantation scene on each side of inscription. Inscribed "U. S. Internal Revenue Cigar Stamp." All alike except in color.

$3 per thousand, blue.
$8 per thousand, green.
$15 per thousand, black.
$25 per thousand, yellow.
$40 per thousand, vermillion.

USED IN 1865 AND 1866.

Lithographed, number of cigars on right and blank space for inspector's name on left. Months of the year above and numbers from 1 to 31 below. "Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, 1865," and some 1866.

25 cigars, black; 9 inches by 1 inch.
50 cigars, black, two portraits of Lincoln; 12 inches by 1⅛ inches.
100 cigars, black, two portraits of Lincoln; 15 inches by 1⅛ inches.
500 cigars, green, two portraits of Lincoln; 15 inches by 1⅛ inches.

USED IN 1867 AND 1868.

Fine lathe work, blank spaces for inspector's name, date, district and state.

25 cigars, U. S. Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, green; 9 inches by 1 inch.

50 cigars, United States Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, blue; 12 inches by 1⅛ inches.

100 cigars, U. S. Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp; portraits of Washington; brown; 15 inches by 1¼ inches.

250 cigars, Internal Revenue Inspectors U. S. Stamps; portraits of Washington; black; 15 inches by 1⅛ inches.

(*To be continued.*)

THE NEW ADHESIVE STAMPS.

Joseph R. Carpenter, of Philadelphia, has forwarded to the Internal Revenue Bureau specimens of the new series of adhesive stamps, which are regarded as excelling in design and finish anything of the kind ever furnished the government. While there is a general uniformity preserved for the classes of each stamp, no one can be used for the other by alteration of the denomination. The vignette on each class is the head of Washington printed in soluble ink, and having all the appearance of steel plate printing, while the framework or border is printed in permanent ink of blue and green. The highest denomination of the present series is two hundred dollars. In the new series there will be a stamp of the denomination of five thousand dollars, designed to accommodate railroad, banking and insurance companies. The vignette, where the cancellation marks are to be written or printed, will disappear on the slighest application of acid, so that the re-use of stamps by washing off the cancellation, which is now a common occurrence, will be prevented. The use of tinted chameleon paper on which they are to be printed will afford additional security against their reissue.

NEW INTERNATIONAL POSTAL TREATY.

The postal treaty concerning the international exchange of postal money orders between Great Britain and the United States has just been concluded in London by Dr. McDonald, as agent for the United States, and has been received by the Post Office Deparment. The treaty is signed by the British authorities, and only awaits the signature of the President of the United States. Under its provisions money orders of $50 or less of American currency or £10 sterling or less may be obtained in England, Ireland and Scotland, and in the post offices of the United States. The treaty goes into effect on the first day of October next, and will prove a vast convenience to both American citizens and British subjects.

FOREIGN MONEY ORDERS.

The Post Office Department has received letters from Superintendent Macdonald, who is in London, arranging a money order system between the United States and Great Britain. He expresses the expectation of satisfactorily concluding the business in a few days, when he would leave for Berlin to arrange a similar service with the German Empire.

COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition,	$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates,	75
French Medals; bronze; proof,	75
Greek Silver Coins,	75
" Brass "	50
Roman Silver Coins,	50
" Brass "	15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round,	1 75
" Half Dollar, "	75
" Quarter Dollar, octagon or round,	50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces; 1871; proofs,	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs,	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine,	3 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, fine,	3 00
Silver Proof Sets, 1859 to 1870, each,	5 50

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CURIOSITIES.

The London Times in miniature—a photographic copy of the great newspaper—every word and letter distinct and in exact form and appearance of the original—4 inches by 3 inches. Every lover of the curious should have a copy. Price, 25 cents. Also, Harper's Weekly—photographic copy. in perfect miniature (size of a visiting card) and folded in exact appearance of the original—illustrations remarkably perfect. Price, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

1793 CENTS.

We have received a small lot of poor 1793 cents, dates not visible, which we will sell from 25 cents to 50 cents, each, according to condition; also, a few extra chain or link '93's, at $10, each; extra wreath '93's, $5, each; good wreath '93's, $2 50, $3 and $3 50, each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

KENTUCKY CENTS.

Kentucky Cent; very fine,	$3 00
do fine,	2 00
do good,	1 50
do fair,	1 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

CHROMOS.

We have a large stock of chromos on hand—portraits of beautiful ladies—which we will send by mail at the following prices:

Full Length Figure,	$ 25
Half Length Figure,	20
Heads and Busts, enameled,	20
Largest Size, very fine,	40
A full set, one of each, all different and different sizes,	90

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.